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SCALING UP: ASSESSING THE FUTURE OF OA MONOGRAPHS IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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SURVEYS OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS CONCERNING OPEN ACCESS MONOGRAPHS

2013 KU Pre-Pilot Survey of Libraries

- **Responses**: 62 from U.S. & U.K.
- **Focus**: ideal platforms (HathiTrust, JSTOR, Project MUSE), selection (subject packages or individual titles), pricing, number of titles
- **51%** of US respondents were concerned or somewhat concerned about free riders.

2014 OAPEN-UK Librarian Survey

- **Responses**: 109 from U.K.
- **Focus**: acquisition, discovery, business models
- **43%** participate in OA monograph initiatives using library-funded, consortium-based business models.

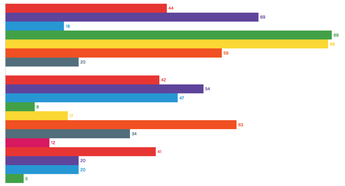
2015 PCG OA Monographs Survey

- **Responses**: 152 from 34 countries; 78% librarians, 17% publishers, and 5% library staff member
- **Focus**: acquisition, discovery, funding, role of libraries
- **68%** of libraries decide to list OA books in their catalog based on relevance to the curriculum while **67%** do so by faculty request.

2016-17 OA MONOGRAPH SCALABILITY SURVEY OF COLLECTIONS UNITS AT ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN THE U.S.

•103 valid responses **•1 authoritative response per library** **•37 states and D.C.**

Q4.3 - When your library is evaluating an OA initiative, what are the major...factors you consider in determining whether or not to participate?

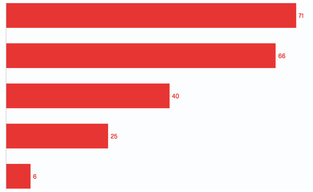


1. Content quality: 89 (94%)
2. Cost/Contribution amount: 88 (93%)
3. Business model of OA initiative: 69 (73%)
4. Reputation of publishers: 63 (68%)
5. Discoverability: 59 (63%)

Q4.5 - Looking forward, what are the biggest obstacles to or areas of concern for an expansion in your library's participation in OA book initiatives in the Humanities and Social Sciences? (select up to 3)

1. Lack of funding/Affordability: 58 (68%)
2. Content quality & Usage rates: 27 (32%) (tie)
3. Lack of will/interest among faculty: 23 (27%)
4. Discovery issues: 15 (18%)
5. User experience issues & Preservation issues: 10 (12%) (tie)

Q4.6 - How will you judge the success of your participation? (select all that apply)



1. The success of the OA initiative: 71 (84%)
2. Usage rates: 66 (78%)
3. Increase in participation by peer institutions: 40 (47%)
4. Savings on monograph expenditures: 25 (29%)

"We want to support **models** that seem sustainable and economical. OA initiatives that appear to perpetuate the status quo publishing model on the backs of libraries is not one we are likely to support."

"**Freeriders** are institutions who don't contribute to OA initiatives, for whatever reason (budgetary, philosophical, etc.). I'm not sure that I'm not worried about that, but I can't control their actions, I can only control my own. It doesn't make sense to me to use lack of support by others as a factor as to whether or not I contribute."

"We're needing to support more and more of our collection budget expenditures with **"metrics"** - and I'd hate to see OA initiatives collapse (with institutions not being able to continue support) because they missed that metrics train."

"The best **business model** is that which provides the best literature to the most people for the least cost. We would reject a business model that imposed fees on authors."

"I don't have time to worry about another institution who *can* afford it **"freeriding"** (besides, it's kind of their "bad karma" right?); and for the rest of the world -- individuals as well as institutions in the U.S. and globally that *don't* have many resources - it's all good!"

"Notifications to us from the OA initiative about the availability of **MARC records** is ideal (don't make us chase after the records, or have to enter reminders to check for records into our calendars, please); the earlier the better, esp for front list titles, to avoid ordering duplicates."

7 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A SCALABLE & SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR OA MONOGRAPHS

1. Limit to highest quality **content** from trusted scholarly **publishers**
2. Implement scaled **pricing** to enable smaller schools to participate
3. Employ **business models** that are sustainable, i.e. straightforward and financially fair to libraries and pubs.
4. Gather reliable local **usage data**
5. Improve **discoverability** by standardizing workflows and best practices
6. Advocate for OA monographs among **faculty** and **school administrators**
7. Institute campus-wide **OA policies**